



Germany: Facts & Figures October 2007

A monthly overview of current opinion data and statistical information in the Federal Republic of Germany

Politics

If Bundestag elections were held November 4, the CDU/CSU would receive 39% of the vote, the SPD 26%, the Green Party 10%, the FDP 9%, the Left Party 11%, and all other parties combined 5%. (Forsa. 10/29/07)

70% of Germans (73% of western German, 60% of eastern Germans) consider Angela Merkel to be a good chancellor. 21% hold the opposite view. (Infratest, Dimap. 10/01/07)

Economy

In October, the unemployment rate declined to 8.2% (September 8.4%). The number of unemployed dropped by 110,000 to 3,434,000. (Federal Employment Agency. 10/30/07)

The IMF will cut its 2008 growth forecast for Germany to 2.0%, down from 2.4%. The reduction is the result of the U.S. subprime mortgage lending crisis. (Major papers, 10/10/07)

Only 30% of Germans consider wages and salaries to be appropriate. Mostly low income earners, industry workers, and unemployed people complained about a wage level that is too low. 59% of Germans advocate the introduction of minimum wages, while 12% reject their introduction. Asked whether they consider the situation in Germany to be just, 36% (down from 47% in August) said the situation is "rather fair," while 57% said it is "rather unfair" (up 8%). (Deutschlandtrend. 10/05/07)

Society

Beer producing and storing establishments in Germany sold 27.4 million hectoliters of beer in the third quarter of 2007, a decrease of 2.1 million hectoliters (-7.2%) from the corresponding period of the previous year. (Federal Statistical Office. 10/29/07)

The number of Internet users in Germany has increased to 35.8 million in 2007, an increase of 6% compared to last year's figures. Among Germans aged 14 and 64 years, 71.7% are online. 32% of the interviewed said that computers and the Internet are indispensable resources for relevant news but the "news media number one continues to be TV (68%), followed by newspapers (48%), and radio (37%)." The Internet is not primarily used for news (14%) but for information on products and prices. (Allenbach Computer and Technology Analysis. 10/18/07)

According to the circulation figures for the third quarter of 2007, Der Spiegel sold 1,079 million copies (up 0.2% compared to the second quarter), followed by Stern magazine with 1,008 million (down 0.5%) and Focus with 728,000 (down 0.8%). Die Zeit was able to increase its circulation by 0.2% to 480,000 copies. Sueddeutsche Zeitung had the biggest circulation among the dailies with 431,000 copies (down 0.3%). FAZ dropped to 361,000 copies (down 0.5%), Die Welt and Welt kompakt increased their circulation to 275,000 copies (up 0.2%). Handelsblatt increased the number of copies to 143,000 (up 1.3%), while Financial Times Deutschland dropped 0.7% to 103,000. (Major papers, 10/16/07)

43% of Germans think that the government should spend additional income on future-oriented investments such as education, research, and infrastructure. 22% said the money should be spent on lowering taxes and social security contributions. 16% said the money should be used to increase social security payments. (Emnid. Bild am Sonntag, 10/14/07)

The acceptance of foreigners in Germany has improved over the past years. The number of Germans who want to send back foreigners during times of scarce jobs has dropped from 52% in 1980 to 22% in 2006, but, at the same time, the number of Germans who call for greater adjustment of foreigners living in Germany to the life style of Germans increased from 66% to 79%. (Gesis. Sueddeutsche, 10/10/07)

There are currently 159 mosques in Germany, while 184 are under construction or are being planned. This figure refers to classical mosques which are visible from the outside with minarets and cupolas. In addition, 2,600 Islamic prayer and assembly houses exist. (Islamic archive in Soest. FAZ, 10/09/07)

Trips by Germans to the United States have increased between May and October by 8% compared to the same period of last year. More than 688,000 visitors from Germany arrived in the States during this period. The main reason for the increase is the weak dollar. (German Travel Association. Tagesspiegel, 04/10/07)

Overall, 79% of Germans consider the unification of the two German states to be good thing. 17% said it was wrong. In eastern Germany 84% and in western Germany 78% said unification was right. (Forschungsgruppe Wahlen. Handelsblatt, 10/02/07)

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